



THE STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER
SALT LAKE CITY

WAYNE D. CRIDDLE
STATE ENGINEER

March 20, 1958

MINUTES OF THE BURNT FORK-BIRCH CREEK WATER USERS MEETING

The meeting was held in the Manila Courthouse on March 17, 1958. The meeting was a two-state meeting for the purpose of setting up a distribution system for the Burnt Fork, Birch Creek area. Those present:

Water Users

William McGinnis, Sr.	Alta Gamble
Chet Hallett	Bob Gamble
Orson Behunin	Claude Sadlier
Karl Allen	Louis Stall
George Ellsworth	Earl Gamble
Gene Gamble	Charles Meeks
Alton Beck	
Melroy Luke	
William Cox	

Utah State Engrs. Office

Wayne D. Criddle
Hubert C. Lambert
Robert B. Porter
Harold D. Donaldson
Donald C. Norseth

Wyoming State Engrs. Office

Earl Lloyd
Emil Gradiert

Wayne D. Criddle opened the meeting. Those present were advised of their rights as Utah water users and of the benefits of joint administration of the system with Wyoming. The method whereby such a system could be operated was discussed. He further elaborated on the method and approximate cost under each system.

Discussion was then held on the purpose of the meeting and the following three main items pointed out. Purpose of the meeting:

1. To select a competent water commissioner.
2. To adopt a budget to cover distribution costs for 1958.
3. To determine a basis for assessment of Utah water users and a method of collection.

A discussion was held on the total cost of distribution. It was decided that under a joint distribution program, a total cost to the users, both Wyoming and Utah, would be \$600 for 1958. Wyoming agreed to pay \$400. The Utah users would be assessed \$200 on a basis of the irrigated acreage in Utah. Wyoming would pay her share according to Wyoming water law.

Emil Gradiert asked for clarification as to who was considered as being "Utah people". It was explained that any with irrigated land in Utah were so designated. The acreage tentatively set-up included 2,000 acres of Burnt Fork and 450 acres from Birch Creek as being irrigated in Utah.

A discussion was then held on the duties of the water commissioner. It was decided that each diversion should be visited at least once a week during the period of heavy flow. He should also be on call during the entire season to any user who had a reasonable and legitimate need for the water commissioner.

The users were asked if it were agreeable with them to operate under a joint Utah-Wyoming system with one commissioner. This problem was discussed and a motion was made by Robert Gamble that the water users in both states operate under a joint commissioner and that Lewis H. Stall be so appointed. This motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Emil Gradiert then pointed out in the Upper Colorado River Compact the provision, on page 22, for the operation of inter-state streams under a joint commissioner.

A discussion was then held on the method of assessment to insure the water commissioner of his salary. Robert B. Porter, Assistant Attorney General, said the State Engineer would send out assessment notices this spring. If the money is not forthcoming then we would take appropriate action under the statutes of the state water law. It was further clarified that the assessment for 1958 would be based on the claimed irrigated acreage for each user which would be determined by the hearings in Manila the following day. Future assessments will be made on the basis of actual acre feet delivery.

It was brought out that the water commissioner must record each water measurement and compile and report the actual acre feet delivered to each individual user. This report should be transmitted at the end of the year to both the State Engineer's Office of Utah and Wyoming.

The matter of storage in Island Lake Reservoir, owned by the Inter-state Canal Company, was then discussed. It was reported by Donald C. Norseth that preliminary work had been accomplished on operation of this reservoir. During 1958, more study should be made to determine a fair and equitable solution of the problem.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

March 24, 1958

Mr. Louis Stoll
Water Commissioner, District #14
McKinney, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Stoll:

Enclosed are the minutes of the meeting we held
in Manila on March 20.

I will try to get up to Burnt Fork some time in
the middle of April so that we might check all
diversions and outline how you are going to distri-
bute the water this year.

Sincerely yours,

Donald C. Horseth
DISTRIBUTION ENGINEER

DCH:ja

P. S. We are enclosing information on the approach-
ing Water Commissioners Training Program. We hope you
will be able to attend.